NEWS RELEASE

For media inquiries, contact: Nick Wolda
nwolda@thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov

The Woodlands Township COVID-19 Update, Monday, May 4, 2020

Township News

Township Amenities Re-Open with Limitations
Pursuant to Gov. Greg Abbott's plan for the re-opening of Texas, the Township has re-opened certain amenities and recreational areas as of May 1, 2020.

The Township will be opening Riva Row Boat House with kayak and swan boat rentals in the next few days. More information to come.

“We are eager to open up all the facilities and recreational programming in The Woodlands,” said Chairman Gordy Bunch. “But we’re doing so in accordance to national and state guidelines. We want to be deliberate in the process as we seek a ‘new’ normal over the next few weeks and months of this year.”

Township parks are open with limitations: Lake Woodlands and Lake Paloma are open, pathways and trails are open, tennis courts are open with modifications, park restrooms are open and community gardens are open with restricted access. Other amenities that are open

include: skate spots, the archery range, kayak launches, BMX areas, bocce, horseshoe pits, pavilions, benches, BBQ pits, disc golf at Terramont Park and running/walking tracks.

Facilities and amenities that remain closed through Phase One include: large parks (sports complexes, Rob Fleming Park, Town Green Park), playgrounds, basketball courts, dog parks, volleyball courts, Bear Branch Skate Park, pools, spraygrounds, recreation centers, facility reservations, Lakes Edge Boat House and Texas TreeVentures.

The Township encourages residents to continue to observe safe social distancing and hygiene practices. Wear a face covering whenever possible, wash your hands frequently and use hand sanitizer when out, avoid touching your face and observe a 6-foot distance from anyone who is not a member of your household.

Dog Parks in The Woodlands to Remain Closed
Dog parks are unfortunately closed at this point. The parks are located in Bear Branch, Cattail, Terramont, Harper's Landing, Tamarac, and Rob Fleming parks. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), until more is learned about how this virus affects animals, treat pets as you would other human family members to protect them from a possible infection.

- Avoid dog parks or public places where a large number of people and dogs gather.
- Do not let pets interact with people or other animals outside the household.
- Walk dogs on a leash, maintaining at least 6 feet from other people and animals.
- Keep cats indoors when possible to prevent interaction with other animals or people.

County News

Montgomery County COVID-19 Case Count

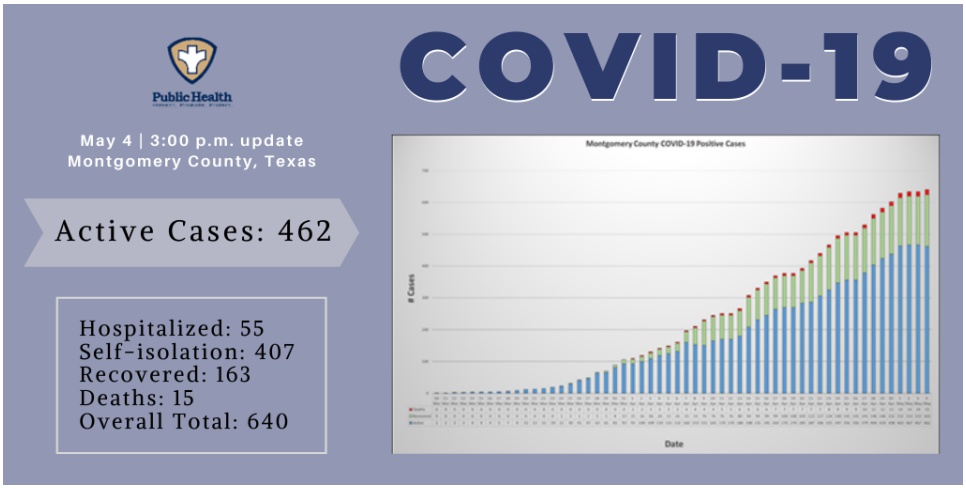
Montgomery County Public Health District, in conjunction with Montgomery County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, is saddened to confirm the 15th death related to COVID-19 in Montgomery County. A man, in his 70s from the Montgomery area, died in a local hospital.

There are now 462 ACTIVE cases of COVID-19. That number includes 55 hospitalizations. 163 people have fully recovered. The number of total positive cases has increased 6 since Saturday to 640.

Today, the Montgomery County Public Health office experienced an equipment malfunction that resulted in a delay of the receipt of laboratory results, which explains the increase of only 6 cases. Now that the equipment is functional, we expect to see a spike in Tuesday's numbers.

Details on individual cases can be found here: https://mcphd-tx.org/coronavirus-covid-19/confirmed-cases/.

Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management updates a dashboard for the cases here: https://coronavirus-response-moco.hub.arcgis.com/.



Harris County COVID-19 Case Count

As of May 4, 2020 (4 p.m.), Harris County Public Health (HCPH) has 2,975 positive cases **(1,201 active** cases). HCPH is also confirming that 1,709 of its patients have recovered. There have been 65 total deaths of COVID-19 in Harris County. None of these numbers include the City of Houston. A full description of the numbers can be found here: https://tinyurl.com/tzymvk5

Cases by zip code in Harris County can be found here by clicking on areas of the map.

The Village of Creekside Park is located in two zip codes: 77375 and 77389 and these also include Magnolia, Augusta Pines/Auburn Lakes/West Rayford Road in northwest Harris County. Today, Harris County is reporting zip code 77375 has 47 cases and 77389 has 37 cases.

Harris County Simplified COVID-19 Assessment Tool for Testing
Harris County Public Health (HCPH) has revamped its COVID-19 online self-assessment tool to streamline the COVID-19 testing process. The online tool can be found at: www.readyharris.org or www.hcphtx.org (or https://covidcheck.hctx.net). Learn more about the assessment tool here.

Current Status of Hospital Availability
Residents in The Woodlands can take comfort in the fact that hospitals in The Woodlands and Southeast Texas region are prepared to handle the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is evidenced in data summarized by the Southeast Texas Regional Advisory Council (SETRAC) which provides medical leadership in our region regarding the care of trauma and acute care patients. SETRAC is keeping daily count of hospital bed availability, ventilator usage and other key factors within the Southeast Texas area.

As reflected in SETRAC data, Houston Methodist The Woodlands, Memorial Hermann The Woodlands and St. Luke's The Woodlands have more than adequate capacity to handle an increase in COVID-19 cases.

Hospital data from the 25-county SETRAC region is available for the following categories:
• Daily Admissions
• General Bed Usage
• ICU Usage
• Ventilator Usage
• COVID Related Census

Viewers can review these numbers regionally or at the county level.

Around the Township

Township Together
#TownshipTogether

#Township Together

The Woodlands Township is calling on residents to share any images of inspiration with the community. These can be a photo of something seen in the neighborhood, a family project or anything with a positive message. These will be shared through the Township email updates, social media channels and on The Woodlands Township website.

Recycling Facility is now open

The Montgomery County Precinct 3 Recycling Facility is now open and operating during regular business hours.
Address: 1122 Pruitt Road, Spring, TX 77380
Hours: Monday - Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Closed 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Phone: 281-367-7283

Website: http://www.precinct3.org/recycling/
Household Chemicals & Hazardous Waste – Collected every Wednesday and the third Saturday of the month. $10 per 0-5 gallons of materials. Some fees may apply for select items. For a complete list of accepted materials and pricing, please visit their website here.

The Harris County Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Facility is temporarily closed at this time. Please call for updates on closure status.
Address: 6900 Hahl Rd, Houston, TX 77040
Hours: Wednesday 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.
2nd Saturday of the month 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Phone: 281-560-6230
Website: http://www.northamptonmud.com/2017/07/harris-county-household-hazardous-waste-disposal/

The Woodlands Mall Set to Reopen Tomorrow
Pursuant to Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA-18, The Woodlands Mall will be reopening to the public on May 5, 2020. The operating hours will be Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. For more information, including minimum recommended health protocols, follow this link to the Governor's Report to Open Texas: https://bit.ly/3eWmjCm.

Some retailers in Market Street are open
Market Street is reporting that some of its retailers opened Friday, May 1, 2020, but not the entire facility. It will be a gradual approach over the next 30 days.

Retail-To-Go
Visit The Woodlands, the official destination marketing organization for The Woodlands, has launched a Retail To Go Program promoting storefront retail businesses in The Woodlands

Township following Governor Abbott's Executive Order establishing a Strike Force to open Texas.

"Our local retailers and restaurants have all been proactive and managed to change their business models in response to this global pandemic," said Visit The Woodlands Chairman Bruce Rieser. "Here at Visit The Woodlands, we're committed to supporting and promoting those efforts. Our team continues to create new content that will bring the hospitality message to our residents on behalf of our partners and help ensure their success."

Retail to-go with curbside pickup is now available in a growing number of stores in The Woodlands. For more information, click here: https://visitthewoodlands.com/blog/retail-to-go-in-the-woodlands/

Experience The Woodlands with Safe Social Distancing
Looking to try new restaurants or shops while social distancing? Save this passport to your phone and check off these "destinations" as you support dining and shopping options in The Woodlands. You can visit these destinations by making purchases from local stores and ordering from area restaurants. Post your progress to encourage your friends and neighbors to participate. Snap photos of your food and purchases and be sure to share them on social media, tagging the business and using #SoWoodlands.

Take part in a virtual passport program by supporting restaurants and businesses in The Woodlands.
Shopping Guide: www.visitthewoodlands.com/shoplocal
Dining Guide: www.visitthewoodlands.com/eatlocal

Things to Do at Home
From having your own film festival at home to virtual puzzles and more, *Visit The Woodlands* has created a guide for things you can enjoy while at home. If you need ideas on ways to keep busy at home, head to www.visitthewoodlands.com/athome

Community Resources

Numerous resources are available in the community for support. These vary from food banks to financial assistance and much more. Please visit the link below to find more information about resources in the community related to COVID-19: http://thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/1491/Community-Resources.

Upcoming Blood Drives

Please give to the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center. Every donation can help save as many as three lives. For more information, please visit giveblood.org.

THE WOODLANDS NEIGHBORHOOD DONOR CENTER
3091 College Park Drive
The Woodlands, TX 77384
(936) 321-8440

Mobile Opportunities:
WOODLANDS CHURCH, FELLOWSHIP CAMPUS
Tuesday, May 5, 2020
One Fellowship Drive
The Woodlands, TX 77384
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

WOODLANDS CHURCH, FELLOWSHIP CAMPUS
Wednesday, May 6, 2020
One Fellowship Drive
The Woodlands, TX 77384
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

MEMORIAL HERMANN THE WOODLANDS MEDICAL CENTER
Monday, May 11, 2020
9250 Pinecroft
The Woodlands, TX 77380
8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

EDU-CARE CENTER
Wednesday, May 13, 2020
121 Robinson Road
The Woodlands, TX 77385
10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Children's Safe Harbor
With the stay-at-home orders due to COVID-19, it has become one of the most dangerous times for children at risk for potential abuse given the financial and emotional stress that families are going through. Isolation is a huge risk. Children's Safe Harbor serves children who have been sexually assaulted, severely physically abused, sexually trafficked or exploited or traumatized and advocates for their justice and healing. The organization is in need of gift cards, tutors and food to give to the families they serve. Please visit www.ChildrensSafeHarbor.org for more information and how to help.

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE CENTER
Serving Montgomery County

Community Assistance Center
The Montgomery County Community Assistance Center is seeking help through monetary and in-kind donations and through volunteers. View the flyer to learn more.

Interfaith OF THE WOODLANDS

Interfaith Requesting Help

The following are needs for Interfaith of The Woodlands:

Funding: Funding to be used for the following:

- To purchase bulk, specific and essential foods, toiletries and paper goods for food assistance for families and Seniors.
- Provide financial assistance (i.e. rent, mortgage, utilities, gas cards and prescription assistance) to families and Seniors.

Monetary Donations can be made here:
https://interfaith-of-the-woodlands.snwbll.com/covid-19-community-response

Food Donations: Interfaith is actively accepting food donations of: cereal, canned meat, dry pasta, vegetables and fruit, snacks for kids, peanut butter, jelly, meal starters, soups, crackers, toiletries, paper goods including toilet paper and cleaning supplies. Donations will be accepted on Wednesdays from 9-11 am at Interfaith Central, 4242 Interfaith Way.

Encouragement Cards for Seniors and Healthcare workers: We are accepting cards for Seniors and Healthcare workers to help bring sunshine to their day! All cards donated will be delivered to our Senior neighbors during grocery delivery and to local hospitals. You can mail your cards or drive through and drop off at our office at 4242 Interfaith Way, The Woodlands, 77381.

Mosaics of Mercy Needs Assistance in the Following Areas:

1) Donation to support our mission of being a central hub for mental health resources for our community
2) Sponsorship for our weekly podcast- Hope Pieced Together ($350/episode- and they are thanked for their sponsorship via social media, during the podcast, and in the show notes)
3) Getting the word out about Mosaics of Mercy and that we are available to help people navigate mental health resources. Options:
   - Assist us with marketing
   - Share our website with your friends and contacts
   - Share our social media posts
   - Share our podcasts
4) Donate a mosaic heart to be sent to someone in the community that is struggling (Done through the donate page of our website)
5) Display a mosaic heart and our information in your place of business to continue to get the word out that mental health resources are available.

Please visit www.mosaicsofmercy.com for additional information.

The Township's Coronavirus page
The Woodlands Township's special COVID-19 information page can be found at www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/covid19. This page features Montgomery and Harris county Hubs, community resources and updated COVID-19 news from the Federal Government and the CDC. This page also includes the latest news from The Township, updates from partner agencies, social distancing strategies, important links, frequently asked questions, live Twitter feeds and more.

Hotlines for health questions and COVID-19
Montgomery County: 936-523-5040
Harris County: 713-634-1110
Statewide Mental Health Support Line: 833-986-1919

Free Self-Screening Tool for COVID-19
Visit the self-screening tool on the CDC website: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html.

Tracking COVID-19: Local, Regionally, Nationally, Internationally
Below are the widgets for tracking COVID19.

- Montgomery County
- Texas Counties Statewide
- Texas Department of Health and Human Services Case Counts
- Global Cases

Stay Connected
Please stay connected to The Woodlands Township through our many communications channels. Learn more and sign up at www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/stayinformed.

The Woodlands Township publishes this update to inform residents and businesses regarding the COVID-19 and its impact on The Woodlands Township. Please sign up for Township news and notifications at www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/notifyme.